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*LETTER FROM THE EDITORS*

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Welcome to the tenth-anniversary edition of The Forum!

We feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to study history at Cal Poly, under some of the university's most talented, distinguished, and kind faculty. Cal Poly's history department is unique because of its emphasis on "doing" history. The university's "Learn by Doing" motto inspires every member of the history department, from faculty to students, to engage in non-traditional research topics and methods. This has been the guiding determinant in the essays we published in this year's edition of The Forum.

Cal Poly currently struggles with difficult conversations about privilege, diversity, and inclusiveness. As our contribution to Cal Poly, we wanted to showcase student work that sparks discussions and helps those in and out of our department recognize historical study as an active, not passive, force in the world. We feel that now more than ever, it is important for everyone to understand the power of the liberal arts, and of history in particular. To that end, we hope that this year's edition of The Forum will challenge its readers to look at seemingly normal objects and ideas in a new way.

The Forum would not be possible without the support of the faculty and staff of the history department, Phi Alpha Theta, our editing staff, and all of the students who submitted their papers. Thank you especially to Dr. Call, Dr. Murphy, and all of the faculty and staff who encouraged and supported our ideas. Additionally, our editors were exceptional in their commitment to The Forum, and we are so grateful to have such a wonderful staff supporting us. Finally, thank you to the students who submitted papers. It is an undeniable fact that The Forum would not be possible without each one of you. We had a high quantity and quality of submissions that made our final decisions difficult. It is heartening to see the amazing work our students do here in the Cal Poly history department, and we are proud to belong to this family. With that said, we are thrilled to finally present the tenth-anniversary edition of The Forum.

*Lauren Hinkley*

*Mackenna Johnson*